



**WINTER  
2017**

**POINTS OF  
INTEREST**

★

**WHEN TO  
CALL THE  
POLICE**

★

**SCAMS,  
SCHEMES &  
FRAUD**

★

**A WORD  
FROM THE  
TOP**

**HERE TO  
SERVE:**

**2012 Pacific Ave  
Forest Grove, OR  
97116**

**Business Phone:  
503-992-3260**

**Non-emergency  
Dispatch:  
503-629-0111**

# GROVE WATCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE FOREST GROVE POLICE DEPT.

## Citizens' Academy Kicks Off Feb. 8, 2017

Each February, the FGPD begins its annual Citizens' Academy, a ten week program aimed at fostering partnerships between police and citizens by building understanding and communication about the role of police in our community.

And for the first time ever the class was filled to capacity months in advance.

Started in 2011, the program has seen more than 120 participants from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and experiences.

This year's course will meet every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m., February 8 thru April 19, 2017.

Taught by FGPD officers, detectives and administration, the course offers a thorough overview of policing and the



**Capt. Herb and several of FGPD's finest lead weekly seminars during this ten week in-depth course about police work in our town.**

inner-workings of the department not usually open to the public through case studies, interactive lectures, and hands-on activities.

Course content includes sessions on patrol procedures, race relations and police legitimacy, use of force, mental health issues, criminal investigations, drugs, forensics, and other criminal justice content.

Additionally, students tour the Washington County Dispatch Center (911 and Non-Emergency), the county jail, and are offered opportunities for ride-alongs.

While the 2017 course is full, the FGPD is accepting applications for a wait list should any participant drop, as well as early applicants who will receive priority for the next year.

Applications are available at the Forest Grove Police Station (2102 Pacific Ave., Forest Grove) or on the City's website: [www.forestgrove-or.gov/citizensacademy](http://www.forestgrove-or.gov/citizensacademy).

Questions can be directed to FGPD Community Outreach at 503-992-3104 or at [lquinsland@forestgrove-or.gov](mailto:lquinsland@forestgrove-or.gov)

## Community Policing: Coffee with a Cop

Every three months the FGPD invites members of the community to join us at a local cafe to voice concerns, ask questions, and get to know the officers who serve their town over a free cup of coffee at the quarterly Coffee with a Cop event.

With no agenda, no prepared statements, and a fun,

casual atmosphere, Coffee with a Cop is a community favorite opportunity to interact with the FGPD. This family friendly event is open door, no reservations are required, and the department will foot the bill.

Officers and other representatives from the department will be standing by for

conversation, questions, and (of course) plenty of stickers.

Coffee with a Cop is held quarterly at various locations throughout Forest Grove, from 8-10 a.m. Events are scheduled for January 4 at Coffee House in the Grove, as well as April 5th, July 5th, and October 4th at locations to be determined.

# When & How to Report Suspicious Activity

Learning to call 911 in the case of an emergency is part of every pre-school and kindergarten curriculum. We are all taught from a young age that help is just three digits away and even has its own quick access on many modern phones. But ever since its inception in 1967, the 911 system has allowed for the immediate assistance of millions of individuals, but not without its fair share of non-emergencies that bog the system down. The increase in SmartPhone use in recent years have further complicated things through “pocket dials” that take up space for actual emergencies.

Non-emergency dispatches were created to help relieve the 911 lines of calls from those who are not in immediate distress. Calling 911 for a non-emergency will not result in a faster response and may even require you to hang up and dial the ten digit non-emergency dispatch number.

## ***But how do you know when or who to call?***

**911 is for police, fire or medical emergencies when immediate action is required.**

This means someone’s health, safety, or property is in danger or a crime is in progress.

Examples:

- An event that involves immediate threat to a person or property, such as screams, attacks, gunshots, fire, car accidents with injury or medical emergency.
- A serious crime that has just occurred, such as sexual assault or robbery
- A suspicious circumstance that may indicate an imminent criminal act, such as a prowler
- Suicide threats when the individual is clearly in crisis, such as holding a firearm or having a breakdown

If you are unsure if your situation is an emergency, dial 911. Operators will help determine if immediate action is necessary or direct you to non-emergency.

**Non Emergency Dispatch are for situations in which there is no active harm, threat, or danger, and police, medical or fire assistance is not needed immediately.**

Examples:

- Reporting a crime with no suspect
- Reporting a crime with suspect who is not at the scene, such as with Internet scams and fraud
- Reporting a serious crime with a lengthy delay, such as reporting an incident from the day before
- Non-emergency in progress, such as a noisy party or drug use
- Ongoing crime issues or crimes that are not in progress, such as graffiti but no suspect
- Suspicious circumstances that may indicate ongoing activity, such as a marijuana growth operation

Another option is to visit the station at 2102 Pacific Ave. in Forest Grove from 9-4 p.m. and voice your concerns.

Most of all it’s important to know that your concerns are police business. The FGPD aims to protect and serve our community, and that means taking your concerns seriously. Never hesitate to contact the police if something seems suspicious or out of the ordinary. I

**If you witness or are involved in a non-emergency situation, call the**

**Non-Emergency  
Dispatch at  
503-629-0111**



# Scammers Target Phones, Email



Scams and swindles have become a regular part of life in the digital age. If you have a computer, telephone or a mailbox, you are a possible target for schemers who want to take your money. Your best defense is to know a scam when you see or hear one.

If you think you are a victim of a scam, contact Non-Emergency Dispatch at 503-629-0111

## Know the Facts!

- Government agencies, such as the IRS or utility companies, will provide you with written information regarding any past-due or delinquent payments, usually with several notices before calling.
- Legitimate past-due phone calls or requests for money will never ask for payment over the phone, through a money-wire service, or through pre-paid credit or gift cards.
- Law Enforcement will never arrest you for past due taxes or bills

## Some common clues that a call or email might be a scam:

- You're asked to wire money to someone you do not know personally
- You're pressured to "act now!" or comply "immediately!"
- You're threatened over the phone with arrest or your services shut off
- You're told to pay bills or fines using a money-wire service or via a pre-paid cash or gift cards
- You've won a contest or sweepstakes you've never entered
- You have to pay a fee to receive your "prize" or a payment up front for investments or winnings
- Your personal info, especially your Social Security number, is requested over the phone or email
- A large down payment or unusual amount is required before you receive any goods or services

If you have questions regarding any call, letter or email you feel might be a scam, contact the FGPD or a trusted friend or family member before you act.

## What to Do If You Suspect You're Scammed

- ♦ **Hang up! Delete! Shred!** If you think you are being called by a scammer, simply hang up, delete and block the email, and shred any papers. There is no need to report the phone number, email address, or mailing address on a letter unless you have sent funds.
- ♦ **Call the institution in question:** Call your bank or the agency to ask if an agent called you regarding your account. Most agencies are aware of scams and will be able to confirm if a call is legitimate.
- ♦ **Check the address:** Most fake agencies will use an anonymous PO Box for a mailing address. The IRS, utilities, and banks will always list the physical address, which you can check against public information found online



# From the Chief: Community Policing

Community policing is a strategy aimed at achieving more effective and efficient crime control, reduced fear of crime, improved quality of life, improved police services and police legitimacy, through a proactive reliance on community resources that seeks to change crime causing conditions. However, many community problems do not have a police solution, such as lack of recreational opportunities, lack of educational opportunities that can lead to viable employment, lack of parental involvement and supervision, and illicit drug use.

How can local government and police administration best manage community expectations and help residents understand the limitations of community policing?

The police do not have the resources or skills to deal with all the root causes of crime. They are not equipped to solve the causes and problems of poverty or unemployment. They are not psychologists or counselors who can uncover the reasons for spousal or child abuse. They are not educators who can give people hope for a productive life.

These larger societal issues are best handled by agencies set up to address those problems with input from the citizens they serve. Law enforcement officers can identify problems and, in many cases, take a leadership role in addressing the problems. For example, the police can partner with community health organizations to educate high school students about the dangers of drinking and driving. Or they can team with community nonprofits to identify members of the homeless population who need a helping hand. But all involved in community policing should work to avoid the dangers of mission creep, expecting more of law enforcement than is realistic, given their training and experience. Publicly recognizing the role of community policing in addressing complex societal problems is key to managing community expectations.



## HERE TO SERVE:

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Forest Grove, OR 97116  
503-992-3260

FOREST GROVE OREGON

*A place where businesses and families thrive.*

[www.forestgrove-or.gov](http://www.forestgrove-or.gov)  
City Hall: 503-992-3200



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**5 April**

**Coffee with a Cop**  
8-10 a.m. - McDonald's  
Forest Grove